

Activities: Background

A Look Back – The History of Canoeing and Kayaking

Overview:

Students are acquainted with the history of canoeing and kayaking through a brief discussion or research.

Associated Objectives:

- ☐ Students will be acquainted with the history of canoeing and kayaking.

Time:

15 minutes; time for research if included

Materials:

If research is included – access to library and/or Internet

Directions:

Refer to **Paddling Then...** and **Paddling Now...** sections of the *Background Information* to learn more about the history of canoeing and kayaking. Ask students what they know about how these boats originated and how they might have been used in earlier times. Discuss their knowledge and share the brief introduction included in this module.

Alternate: Have students share their knowledge of canoes and kayaks in history. Assign pairs to research these crafts through print media and/or the Internet. Students can share what they learn through written or oral presentations. (Note: For best results for Internet searches type in specific key words [e.g., history, canoe, kayak, North America, Native Americans] depending on the craft/culture/geographic area you want to know about. Also, make sure students check out the source of any web sites to verify accuracy of information.)

Evaluation:

Students should be able to convey that canoes and kayaks originally were developed as utilitarian crafts and have evolved into recreational crafts.

Extensions:

Students may do extended research on the role of canoes and/or kayaks in different cultures.